

A similar test was made with rats, each animal being fed daily on canned food containing about 0.4 mg. of aluminium. The aluminium consumed by the animals was quantitatively eliminated with the excreta. Growth was normal. In another test rats were fed up to the fifth generation on four year old canned food containing aluminium. No injurious effect was demonstrable. Growth was just as good in the first as in the last generation, and equalled the growth of the control groups fed on ordinary stock diet and on food canned in other material. Determination of the aluminium content of the rats' lungs, heart, spleen, kidneys, liver, and muscle-tissue showed that no accumulation or retention of aluminium had taken place. (Author's abstract).

Gleanings.

Preserving Eggs. A new chemical preserving process, invented by a Chinese scientist in California, is said to prolong the freshness of eggs, possibly for years. The Chinese are known to have a secret process by which eggs retain their edibility for a hundred years, but this is declared to be something different. By the new process, the porous egg shells of natural calcium carbonate are coated with more of the same material thereby excluding all air and moisture, adding strength against breakage in handling and retarding deterioration. (*Industry, Calcutta, October 1937*).

Conditioning of Silk in Bengal. A conditioning house for raw silk, it is understood, is shortly to be established by the Government of Bengal for developing the silk industry of the Province.

The conditioning house which will be perhaps the only one of its kind in India will be equipped with testing and conditioning appliances and will be entrusted with the function of testing the standard of not only raw silk but of silk fabrics as well produced in the country and certifying as to their quality. The fixation of a standard or grade of quality by the house will, it is expected, go a long way in checking frauds and malpractices and inspiring the confidence of the prospective buyers. (*Industry, Calcutta, October 1937*)

Utilisation of molasses. During the past five years, the Biochemistry Department of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, has been engaged on the study of technical problems relating to the utilisation of cane molasses, the chief by-product of modern sugar industry. A number of interesting results of practical value have been obtained and were recently reported to the Indian Sugar Tariff Board. One of the most important findings is the development of a process for the conversion of molasses into a dry, solid product which will not absorb moisture and can stand transport over long distances.

The product is a good fertiliser and is much more efficient in its action than the original molasses. Its nitrogen fixing capacity is also very high. It can easily be applied to land.

The manufacture of the dry powder is a very simple process. The chemicals required for this purpose are cheap and abundantly vigorous and is accompanied by considerable evolution of heat, so that the entire mass boils spontaneously within a few minutes. On cooling the product dries rapidly and can be easily powdered.

It is estimated that the new product will be worth at least Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 per ton as fertiliser (as compared with other known fertilisers on the market). (*Industry, Calcutta, October 1937*.)

Pernanganate in Fertilizer. Addition of potassium permanganate in small amounts to fertilizers has been found in England to increase the yield of radishes,

lettuce, and of other vegetables. It also has the effect of removing moss and earth-worms from lawns which suggests its use on the greens of golf courses. Presumably one of the effects of this powerful oxidising agent is to convert organic nitrogen to nitrates in the soil as well as to supply small amounts of manganese sometimes deficient in the soil. D. H. K. (*Scientific American*, October 1937).

Adlay (*Coix Lachryma—Jobi Linn*) is a grain capable of supplementing rice, with the same delectability. It lends itself for the preparation of the various foods just like rice. It is more wholesome than wheat or rice with its greater fat and protein contents.

Adlay is dibbled—2 to 3 seeds in each hole spaced 2 to 2½ feet apart in high lands. The seed rate is 6–10 lbs. per acre. The crop tillers well, covers the ground and is cut when mature, in 4–5 months, and yields 1000 to 1900 Madras Measures of grain an acre. A ratoon crop can be taken, when conditions are favourable. It is remarkably free from diseases, but subject to parrot damage. (*The Tropical Agriculturist*, Vol. LXXXIX, No. 3, September 1937).

Crop and Trade Reports.

Paddy—1937-38—Intermediate Monthly Report. The harvest of first crop paddy has either concluded or is concluding in parts of the Central districts, the South and the West Coast. The yield is expected to be normal in Tanjore and slightly below normal in the other districts. The condition of the standing crop is generally fair.

The wholesale price of paddy per imperial maund of 82½ lb. as reported from important markets on 8th November 1937 was Rs. 3–0–0 in Madura, Rs. 2–12–0 in Chittoor and Virudhunagar, Rs. 2–10–0 in Vellore and Trichinopoly, Rs. 2–8–0 in Vizianagaram, Kumbakonam and Tinnevely, Rs. 2–7–0 in Masulipatam, Rs. 2–6–0 in Bezwada and Guntur, Rs. 2–5–0 in Ellore and Hindupur, Rs. 2–4–0 in Cocanada, Rajahmundry, Anantapur and Cuddalore, Rs. 2–1–0 in Conjeevaram and Rs. 1–15–0 in Negapatam. When compared with the prices published in the last report, i. e., those which prevailed on 4th October 1937, the prices are stationary in Bezwada, Masulipatam, Guntur, Cuddalore, Vellore and Negapatam, reveal a rise of about 38 per cent. in Chittoor, 14 per cent. in Kumbakonam and Madura, 8 per cent. in Trichinopoly, 7 per cent. in Virudhunagar, 6 per cent. in Hindupur and 5 per cent. in Vizianagaram, and a fall of about 5 per cent. in Tinnevely and 3 per cent. in Cocanada, Rajahmundry, Ellore and Conjeevaram.

Sugarcane—1937—Intermediate report. The condition of the sugarcane crop is generally satisfactory throughout the province and the yield is expected to be normal if the season continues to be favourable.

The wholesale price of jaggery per imperial maund of 82½ lb. as reported from important markets on 8th November 1937 was Rs. 5–8–0 in Adoni, Rs. 4–12–0 in Mangalore, Rs. 4–10–0 in Erode, Rs. 4–6–0 in Trichinopoly, Rs. 4–2–0 in Salem, Rs. 3–15–0 in Cuddalore, Rs. 3–14–0 in Coimbatore, Rs. 3–10–0 in Rajahmundry, Rs. 3–7–0 in Chittoor, Rs. 3–5–0 in Vellore, Rs. 3–0–0 in Vizagapatam, Rs. 2–13–0 in Cocanada, Rs. 2–6–0 in Bellary and Rs. 2–5–0 in Vizianagaram. When compared with the prices published in the last report i. e., those which prevailed on 4th October 1937, these prices reveal a rise of 12 per cent. in Chittoor and 4 per cent. in Vizagapatam and a fall of 16 per cent. in Vizianagaram, 15 per cent. in Cocanada, 8 per cent. in Rajahmundry, 7 per cent. in Trichinopoly, 6 per cent. in Coimbatore and 3 per cent. in Bellary, the prices remaining stationary in the other centres.